available through census which is conducted every ten years. The 1981 census does not indicate industry-wise number of child labour in each States. The 1991 census age-wiss classified data for employment is yet to be made available.

Legislative provisions have been made in various laws to protect childern from exploitation at work and to improve their working conditions. In addition, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regula-tion) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children in certain hazardous occupations and processes and regulates their employment in other areas.

The National Policy on Child Labour, 1987 has been formulated which, inter-alia, envisages focussing on general development programmes for the benefit of child labour and project-based plan of action in areas of high concentration of child labour.

Financial assistance to voluntary orga-nisations is provided for taking of action-oriented projects. In addition, two externally assisted projects for the benefit of working children namely IPEC (International Programme ON Elimination of Child Labour) and CLASP (Child labour Action and Support Programme) have also been taken up. IPEC is a project assisted by ILO.

A meeting with representatives of the eimployers o9 Selected industries which employ child labour was held on 2nd July, 1993 which inter-alia agreed on time bound elimination of child labour. on co-operation in the effort of Government in tackling child labour problem and on implemeni-ation of uniform minimum wages without discrimination as between children and adults.

Under CLAPS an amount of US $3,30, 892 has been provided for a period of 3 years. Expenditure is let to be commenced Under UNICEF, an amount of Rs. 15.6 lakhs and Rs. 32.07 lakhs was spent in the calender years 1991 and 1992 respectively. Under IPEC, an amount of US $2.25 million has been allocated for the biennial ending December, 1993. The Statewise amount committed as per approved projects is given below:

Statewise amount committed as per approved projectsEunder IP EC

States	Amoun t (Rs. lakhs
Uttar Pradesh . . .	57.68
Tamil Nadu	36c21
Andhra Pradesh . .	42.00
Orisa	18.54
Bihar	8.43
Karnataka	8.37
West Bengal;	34.91
Maharashtra	14.57
Gujar t	2.08
Delhi	20.68
Madhya Pradesh . . .	4.56
Rajasthan	18.88
National Labour Inst. . .	51.11
TO.AL :	318.0

Supply of coal to Bihar, Gujarat an. Maharashtra

*17. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV 'RAVI'.

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAF

Will the Minister of COAL be please to state:

(a) what is the demand and supply (coal in Bihar Gujarat and Maharashtra and

(fa) what are the reasons for show Supply of coal to these States and what steps are being taken by Government 1 augment the supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Tl requirements of coal are not assesse State-wise. They are assessed industry wise. Available information ihdicatie total quantities of coal supplied to cos

consumers in the States of Bihar, Gaja- rat and Maharashtra is given below:

(Fig. in '000 tonnes)

(Data Provisional)

States	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Bihar	17505	17638	19468
Gujarat	14655	15179	15320
Maharashtra	20838	23811	24092

The above data indicates steady growth of coal despatches to Gujarat, Maharashtra and Bihar. Available information also indicates that coal supplies to these States during the year 1992-93 were adequate. Coal Companies have however been asked to step up coal supplies to the consumers in order to meet their full requirements.

Prices of Essential Commodities

*18. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH;

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the trend in the prices of essential commodities such as edible oils, sugar, spices, soaps and detergents including consumer manufactured goods during the last six months, month-wise, at retail level;

(b) what are the reasons for increase in the prices; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to check prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY);

(a) The details of the trend in the prices of essential commodities such as edible oils, sugar, spices, soaps and deter gents including consumer manufactured goods during the last six months, month-wise at retail level are given at Anne-xure. *(See* Appendix CLXVIII, Annexure No. 1)

(b) Some of the reasons for increase in the prices of essential commodities are increase in the cost of inputs, raw materia's, fertilizers, electricity, petroleum products, salary and wages of the workers increase in the cost of transpora-tion and gap in the supply and demand of certain commodities.

(c) The Government has been taking appropriate measures on regular basis for containing the prices of essential com modities through provision of finances and credit, liberalisation of imports, im proved infrastructure facilities, increased production, better distribution net work and strengthening of the Public Distribution System.

Role of business in consumer awardness

*19. SHRIMATT VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM-
BHAJIRAO SH1NDE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: